Bichmond Dispatch.

THE CIRCULATION OF THE DIS-LATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY PAPERS OF THE CITY.

THE WESTBER To-DAY .- From our reremaining the probabilities are that is day will be cloudy.

LOCAL MATTERS.

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

TOURIS ANNUAL MEETING.

A ME OF THE UNWRITTEN HISTORY

Election of Officers.

ever which ex-President Jefmesided. Last year Colone an important campaign of hear from Colonel Charles us General Lee's private see position to know much of the of those matchless campaigns

can to assemble at the capitol. of the meeting the ball and House of Delegates were utmost capacity. It was timess the greetings of these in arms. The ficule nant-geneor-general, the brigadier, the memories of the days that know the strength." And there was a brigh e southern wemen who ready to share the hardships afterings, and cheer on the men for the cause of southern inde-

d the Association to order, d Rev. Dr. J. L. M. Curry, st appropriate prayer. The Robert Stiles, made a brief t the financial condition of

Letcher was unanimously

T. Johnson made a state rence to the statue of Stonewall present, through this Associa-Commonwealth of Virginia. He tement in reference to the

Lee spoke of the Assohistorical and social in its historical" has been comthern Historical Society is left, and we come for that to tenned us of those we used to

at would reciprocate the recent soldiers of the Federal the hatchet." He would the orator of the evening ary and confidential friend olonel Charles Marshall,

sment was crused by the 1862, as thirty-five hundred men. need in making the choice

will furnish material at liberty, however, to remind me of comrades instead of 15,000.

and South met each other?

DAILY DISPATCH.

RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 30, 1874.

effect of which if adopted would have been command under General Evans, of South | become historic. It was the Flanders of the | of Carolina and from Western Virginia to | bloody contests between the few and the to erase from the regimental colors of the Carolina, which was not with the army United States army, among other names, those of such battle-fields as Manassas, Chancellorsville, and Cold Harbor? We believe that we won those fights, and wonder why a resolution of Congress should be necessary to blot them from the list of Union victories recorded on the standards of its

Do we not all think that we know something about the second battle of Manassas; and yet is not General Fitz John Porter, the man who fought us so stubbornly at the first battle of Cold Harbor, now in disgrace because it was proved to the satisfaction of a Federal court-martial that balf the Confederate army was not in fact where we know it was on the 29th of August, 1862?

And, on our side, have not all read General Joseph E. Johnston's "contribution of materials for the use of the future historian of the war between the States"; and has any man risen from the perusal of that interesting book without being convinced that its distinguished author is mistaken as to some of his statements, or that all the rest of from those of Heintzelman and Keyes, the world is in darkness and ignorance? I will venture to present two, and only

two, illustrations of the perplexities in which the "tuture historian of the war between vantage of position and superiority of numthe States" will find himself involved when he comes to compare the material contri- corps on Sunday morning, before any aid buted by General Johnston with the other material contributed by official records and which his troops, in the condition to which documents which General Johnston seems the action of the day before had reduced

Life of Jefferson Davis and some other biographers represent, to my disparagement, "No action of the war has been so little biographers represent, to my disparagement, that the army with which General Lee fought in the 'seven days' was only that which I had commanded. It is very far from the had commanded 15,000 men from North battle on Sunday, and fell back to their with began to prepare for it on a scale ade Carolina under Major-General Holmes, 22,000 camps on Monday." from South Carolina and Georgia, and above

sources of his information. He says: "General Holmes told me in General Lee's pre- night ordered the troops back to their camps the baffled armies of the Union. sence, just before the fight began, on the 31st of May, that he had that force (15,000 men) ready to join me when the President should give the order." He then refers to other evidence, which he says is in his possession, going to show that the reinforcements brought by General Holmes to General Lee, and which took part in the "seven days" battles, amounted to 15,000 men.

Georgia, General Johnston says: "General Ripley gave methis number. He brought the first brigade-5,000 men. General Lawton told me that his was 6,000; General Drayton that his was 7,000. There was another brigade, of which I do not which is calculated to give the sanc- everywhere would have led to the ruinous

Now, the future historian of the war would not be apt to question the accuracy of a statement made by General Johnston in repelling insinuations in disparagement of himself; and if he did not push his investigations beyond the limits of the Narrative would the troops ordered by him "to return to were quickly overrun, Missouri was practi-Fire Lee, the president of the As- be apt to record that from the three sources their camps near Richmond." under General Lee was augmented by thir- for the country, ty-seven thousand men before the battles

And yet how hard the future historian will be put to it to reconcile the statements in Johnston's Narrative with the official reports made at the time. In the first volume of the official reports of the operations of the Army of Northern Virginia, published by authority of Congress, at page 151 will be found General Holmes's statement of the number of men brought by him to take part | been so little understood." Nor do I mean | threatening some vulnerable part of the

30th of June by General Wise with two bayonets, and two batteries of artillery, and adds: " The effective force under my orders thus amounted to six thousand infantry and six batteries of artillery," being less by nine thousand than General Johnston's Narrative assigns to General Holmes. General Johnston says that Ripley's brigade have fallen into errors which I am sure they was five thousand strong, and that Ripley will be the first to correct, you will readily told him so. There may possibly have been understand why I do not venture to select thorities at Washington to provide for its that number of men borne upon the rolls of the brigade, but we have General Rip-

ports, General Ripley says: "The aggregate force which entered into the series of engagements on the 26th of June was twentythree hundred and sixty-six, including pio-

General Lawton at six thousand men, but the dignity of the subject. before the future historian makes use of this well to read General Lawton's official report, senator of the United States, who honors called from Fredericksburg to oppose him, to, where he will find that General Lawton be permitted to examine the captured re- operation in his intended attack on Richgives the force which he carried into the cords of the Contederate Government, of mond. battle of Cold Harbor on the 27th of June,

Richmond, if he did take pare General Johnston's statement of to whom I have applied, candor compels me forces and cause them to abandon some parts the strength of Drayton's brigade with any to acknowledge that the seeker after truth of our country which we were not strong official statement; but if the numbers given officially by Holmes, Lawton, and Ripley be correct they brought less than 11,866 men to reinforce the army at Richmond instead of 26,000, as estimated by General Johnston. these incidents, nor can I Ripley and Lawton brought, according to the subjects of which their official reports, 5.866 men instead of ak, and which rise first 11.000, as stated in the Narrative; and Hook upon the faces of Holmes, after being relaforced by 750 inin-arms, and upon some fantry from Wise, numbered 6,000 muskets

ust myself to speak to you of effective men to reinforce the army around army life dearest to the Richmond, "counting pioneers and the am-, but which make no part bulance corps," it follows that Drayton's history of war. Nor does brigade, and the other whose strength o attempt to describe any of General Johnston says he does not know, s in which you bore your must have made up the rest of the 22,000 men who, we are told by General Johnston, came to assist in the "seven days" battle

which it had to contend, and that General Drayton told him his brigade of the burden improved the purpose of the burden improved the purpose of the burden improved th and endurance, as I shall be gade must have had 9,000 men to make up a detailed history of marches and battles, resisting the advance of the Confederate creek, within a few hours' sail of Washingy if I can succeed in present the 22,000 that came from South Carolina and I propose to invite your attention to one army. This movement of Burnside made it the subject to which I propose and Georgia. It may have been so. There of these interesting and instructive conall your attention. Indeed, it may have been a brigade 9,000 strong; but siderations. I refer to the influence upon by McCleilan, and General Lee immediately siderations. I refer to the influence upon by McCleilan, and General Lee immediately siderations. little courage to attempt to in speaking about it before you I think it the conduct and issue of the war in Virginia began to move the rest of his army northsafest to mention it as the "unknown

And before leaving this subject let me suggest to the future historian of the war with great confidence, that the that before he writes Drayton's brigade nes of the Iron Duke turned the down as contributing seven thousand men cory; while the Germans, with to the army around Richmond in the "se-dence, give the glory to him for ven days' battle, it will be well for him to the days' battle. ining Wellington is said to have inquire whether Drayton's brigade was with as he watched the dubious tide of the army at all until after McClellan was driven from the Chickahominy and the

Larence. It is not fourteen years since our although they are so minute as to contain

ed in the official account.

Do you not all know that Mr. Summer was consuled by the Legislature of Massacinesetts ments appearing in the official accounts of ments appearing in the Army of

during the battles around Richmond. Another instance of the difficulty which surrounds any one who ventures to enter into a detailed history of the war will be found in the same Narrative of which I have been speaking. On page 140 General of June) General Lee was assigned to the command of the Army of Northern Virginia by the President, and at night the troops were ordered by him to return to their camps near Richmond, which they did soon after daybreak" (Monday, June 2d).

On the next page, General Johnston proceeds to describe the relative forces and positions of the armies that had been engaged on Saturday, and says, with reference to the where they would give occupation to so condition of affairs on Sunday, June 1st:

"After nightfall, Saturday, the two bodies of Federal troops were completely separated and the Potomac, within reach of the sensifrom the two corps of their right, beyond tive southern frontier of the United States, the Chickahominy, by the swollen stream. which had swept away their bridges, and Washington, for the safety of which the Sumner's corps, at Fair Oaks, was six miles which were at Bottom's bridge; but the Confederate forces were united on the front than fully explain, the importance to the and left flank of Sumner's corps. Such adbers would have enabled them to defeat that could have come from Heintzelman, after not to have seen, or not to have consulted. them, could not have made effectual resist-

And again, on page 143, General Johnston

truth. General Lee did not attack the enemy | the disabling of the commander, they saw | macy to his government with those of other until the 26th of June, because he was em- no advantage derived from it; and the Fede- nations, yet that in truth the North, under ployed from the first until then in forming ral commanders claimed the victory because the name of the "United States," had ena great army by bringing to that which I the Confederate forces did not renew the tered upon a war of conquest, and he forth-

The meaning of these extracts is that 16,000 from 'the Valley,' in the divisions the Confederate army lost a great opportu- called to arms, and an army was speedily of Jackson and Ewell, which the victories nity to destroy that of General McClellan launched strong enough to perform the great of Cross Keys and Port Republic had ren- the day after General Johnston was wound- task committed to it of blockading the southed, and that General Lee is responsible for ern coast from the capes of Virginia to the General Johnston states in a note the the loss of that opportunity because he took mouth of the Rio Grande, and ultimately to command about noon on Sunday, and at turn the dubious scale of war in favor of near Richmond instead of pressing the advantage they had gained on Saturday and soon manifested. Vast armies gathered availing himself of the separation of the along our frontier; the nimble gunboats Federal forces caused by the flood in the and powerful iron-clads swarmed in our

the last person in the world to endeavor to magnify his own great merits by deprecia- federate Government to attempt, with any depreciating the conduct of one whose every point that might be assailed. name, canonized by death, is treasured

Virginia attained its undying renown. General Lee did not take command of the of 1862.

quish it. General Lee did not take command before were already in the camps near Richmoud,

eral Johnston was wounded. portunities of knowing the facts of which mander. they write are so far superior to my own,

The Secretary of War saw proper to deny the contents of which some more fortunate | These results were so entirely out of pro

sources of information, and while I am most ing ourselves of the extreme sensitiveness part grateful for the assistance I have received of the Federal authorities on the subject we from officers, both Federal and Confederate, could compel the concentration of their has a hard time of it when he undertakes to enough to protect. describe with anything like minuteness any

of the great battles of the war. Ever since the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse I have regarded myself as a man | Lee. of peace, but I am obliged to admit that on one or two ceasions, when I was in pursuit of

Kuowing, therefore, the difficulties that beset the way of the honest inquirer, I east the mantle of charity over the errors of those who venture to provide "materials for the use of the future historian of the war between the States"; but I shrink from following their example lest I also fall into the same condemnation.

There are, however, some undisputed city of Richmond as the seat of the Confederate Government and the establishment here of those depôts and arsenals necessary to supply an army operating north of the James river. It is not possible in fact to explain the operations of the contending progress of the war. For four years the General McClellan should be recalled. Army of Northern Virginia had marched greatest efforts of the Federal Government were directed to the capture of the city, wards the concentration of the Confederate

> common consent to the capital of a country, and especially to the capital of a country defending Richmond. The name seems to and especially to the capital of a country defending Richmond. The name seems to The regeral army was not troubled with less exposed and less accessible place the White resterday, charged with breaking and have been inspired by the conviction that have perfectly appropriately appro struggling for recognition, would doubtless have been inspired by the conviction that the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of its lines of communication, less exposed and less accessible place the entering the house of Amos Mackin, in the protection of the place the entering the house of the entering the hous rate Government might have selected for that scene of its operations.
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> This concentration of

sion in which the armies of the North and

South were engaged for nearly four years. This territory was of great value to the Confederacy on account of the supplies it that city.

furnished to the army, and the recruits The advantage which the Confederacy de-Johnston says: "About noon (of the 1st furnished to the army, and the recruits

> to our ranks. But it was not the supplies and the recruits which gave it its chief value.

The effectiveness of any army of the Conederacy depended in a great degree upon its proximity to the enemy's country, and it back towards the North Carolina line, as it soon became apparent that the same number of Confederate troops could not be placed much of the vastly superior force of the enemy as in that region between the James on whose extreme border stood the city of Federal authorities considered no preparation excessive, no sacrifice too great.

A few considerations will suggest, rather Confederacy of being able to maintain in Northern Virginia an army sufficiently strong to keep alive the fears of the Washington Government for the safety of that city, and the defence of the avenues of approach to the large cities of Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The resources of the Federal Government greatly exceeded those of the Confederacy. After the first battle of Manassas Mr. Lincoln perceived that while the moral effect of speaking of the war as one waged for the understood as that of Seven Pines. The suppression of a rebellion was of service in southern people have felt no interest in it uniting the different political parties in the because, being unfinished in consequence of North and in giving the prestige of legiti-

More than half a million of men were

The results of this vigorous policy were Chickahominy.

Now, I believe that General Johnston is of the South felt itself exposed to invasion. rivers and along our coasts, and every part It was manifestly impossible for the Conting the conduct of others, and especially by hope of success, to oppose this vast force at

The undisputed control of the water, and by the southern people in their inmost the extensive coast and great navigable hearts. And yet General Johnston has rivers of the South, enabled the Federal into an error in those parts Government to attack so many points at of his Narrative that I have quoted once that the attempt to oppose the enemy tion of his great name to a reflection upon dispersion of the Confederate forces. The the capacity and conduct of the illustrious fatal consequences of such an attempt had chief under whom the Army of Northern been demonstrated as soon as military operations were resumed in the beginning

army "about noon" on Sunday, nor were | Kentucky and a great part of Tennessee be apt to record that from the three sources mentioned by General Johnston the army When General Johnston, unfortunately Oricans fell into the bands of the enemy, was wounded, General G. General Johnston found himself obliged to W. Smith succeeded to the command of the retire from Northern Virginia, and strong army, and retained it for a few days, until expeditions of the enemy succeeded in his infirm health compelled him to relin- establishing themselves along our Atlantic

coast. The Confederates had some troops everythe 3d of June, and when he did the troops | where, but not enough to be efficient anywhere. But although they must abandon whence General Johnston had led them to the hope of being able to oppose the enemy fight the battle of Seven Pines, of which he successfully at every point of attack they truly says that "no action of the war bas might still, by concentrating their forces and by what I have said to disparage General Federal frontier, compel the enemy to pur-Smith. The opportunity of which General sue the same policy of concentration, and Johnston speaks did not become known un- leave him with fewer troops with which regiments of seven hundred and fifty-two til some days after the battle, and could not to assail exposed localities. The position therefore have been used the day after Gen- of the city of Washington, and the great importance attached by Mr. Lincoln and When you reflect that those who have his advisers to its possession, afforded such every desire to tell the truth, and whose op- an opportunity to the Confederate com-

The safety of the Federal capital was so essential to the successful prosecution of the war that the precautions taken by the aufrom all the events which marked the his- defence were always in proportion to the tory of the Army of Northern Virginia any political importance attached to its possesley's efficial report of the number under his one of its great battles as the subject of my sion rather than to the actual extent of the address to night. I have been engaged for | danger that threatened it. The presence of two or three years, as some of you may the army of General Johnston at Manassas know, in trying to write an account of the detained the army of General McClellan, life and achievements of the great leader of more than three times as strong, at Washthe Army of Northern Virginia; and, con- ington during the autumn and winter of scious of my inability to "rise to the height 1861-'62. The advance of the small force of that great argument," I have spared no of Jackson down the Valley, when he labor to make what I shall write accurate, drove General Banks over the Potomac, however in other respects it may fail below at a time when the Federal arms were everywhere successful, excited such apprehension for the safety of Washington my request (preferred by a distinguished that the strong army of McDowell was reme with his confidence and friendship,) to and General McClellan deprived of its co-

Federal officers have from time to time given | portion to the real danger to which at any what the lawyers call "parole testimony." time Washington was exposed that they I have thus been thrown back upon other naturally suggested the idea that by avail-

of the operations of the Army of Northern erful flotilla of the enemy was able to co- the Confederate succes es, might invite a re-Virginia under the command of General

It will be remembered that he resorted to this plan to compel the army of General and navy. Nor did Richmond possess any McClellan to withdraw from the James of the advantages for the purposes of dewith some zealous Federal officer who in- after it had been dislodged from its po- fence of an inland town, even should the knew would attend its investment by sisted upon convincing me that the Confederation on the Chickahominy. He did not rate army was beaten in the Wilderness, or hesitate, notwithstanding the declaration command of the water afforded him, at must give occupation to the Federal with some unreconstructed reper who would not admit that we were repulsed at Gettys- to renew his operations against Rich- movement of General Grant in 1864 from as to necessitate the largest concentration of The following were reported and unanimond from his new base, to detach the whole of Jackson's command, which was speedily followed by the strong division of

A. P. Hill. These troops, under the energetic lead of Jackson, crossed the Rapidan and attacked the army of General Pope with a boldness which caused him to conceive a very exag-

gerated idea of their numbers. Pope's advance was checked, and the troops of General Burnside, which had been Fredericksburg to cooperate with Pope in safe access to the Potomac river at Aquia which was exerted by the selection of the ward, confident that he would thereby accelerate the recall of McCiellan from the

At the same time the troops of D. H. Hill, James. which had been stationed south of James river, were drawn to Richmond, with such reinforcements as the withdrawal of General Burnside from North Carolina had made disstanding of the importance which the possession of Richmond acquired during the body of the army northward as soon as Thus was completed that great step to-

pattie with his description of the field the fortune of Napoleon and of the reports of the seven days' battles, and yet also any yet also and yet also and yet also and yet also any yet al It is worthy of notice that the army did was attended with few of the difficulties that the Potomac but for the peculiar situation brilliant success. The political consequence assigned by not receive its name until after it had retired beset such a movement in a hostile country and vital importance of Richmond. It is

> This concentration on our part, and the danger with which Washington was sup-Richmond had a value in a military point of view that far exceeded its political impor-

war; and it is no exaggeration to say that aid in defending the Federal capital, and it many that strewed the road from the Rapinearly or quite a quarter of a million of men | was evident that a Confederate army could perished in the fierce struggle for its posses- not render more efficient service and afford more complete protection to the country than by arousing the apprehensions of the authorities at Washington for the safety of

> army near the northern and northeastern border of Virginia will also appear if we reflect what would have been the condition of affairs had the Confederate army been expelled from that region, and had it fallen would have been obliged to do in order to without which neither the troops nor the found the diminished forces of the army

> It is evident that in that case the whole southern border of the United States, in- communications and free to use every man Lee's conviction of the necessity of preventcluding the city of Washington, would have been relieved of serious apprehension of danger, and the troops that were occupied in providing against an expected invision on our part would have been left free to be employed in aggressive movements against us.

The effect of the loss of Kentucky and the greater part of Tennessee upon military operations in the West will further illustrate ny meaning. After our troops in the West had fallen back so far from the northern border, and extensive districts of country practically in the possession of the enemy intervened between them and the Ohio river and the States beyond, the enemy bad a much greater force at his disposal for use in the field than would have been the case had he been required to guard his long southern border.

Time will not permit me to point out all the advantages resulting from the tenure of Northern Virginia by the Confederacy, but I have said enough at least to indicate to my thoughtful hearers that the great struggle of nearly four years which was waged for the possession of this region involved consequences to the Confederacy of far greater importance than the mere loss of territory, or of the recruits and supplies that t derived from Northern Virginia. But while the presence of our army in

Northern Virginia was of advantage to the Confederacy in many ways, some of which I have suggested, it is apparent that, to enable that army to accomplish its object, it needed all the strength the Confederacy could give it. It was near the northern border, in the presence continually of the most powerful of all the Union armies, and continually exposed to the attack of superior num-

With all the important consequences which depended upon the ability of that army to maintain itself, and in view of the gigantic task imposed up in it of meeting the repeated efforts of the enemy to force it further back from the Union frontier and from the Federal capital, it would seem that the army had as much as it could do, and that the skill of its leader and the courage of his men would find full employment in performing the arduous task immediately before

You will now understand the subject to which I proposed to invite your attentionthat is, the influence which the situation and military importance of the city of Richmond exerted upon the conduct and ssue of the war.

Valuable as the possession of Northern Virginia was to the Confederacy, its possession came to depend entirely upon our ability The great advantages which the enemy stirring events of the combat when you reto detend the city of Richmond. There were established the derôts and arsenals which apparent that it was a saying of the comern Virginia, or through Rienmond the that Richmond was never so safe as when its army had its chief means of access to its sources of supply further south.

With Richmond in the hands of the enemy, it is evident that no large Confederate army could have been maintained in Northern Virginia. There was no other city in Virginia that had railroad connections with tion for the supply of such an army as it was important to maintain in Northern Vir-

with railroads in North Carolina, and thus have had an interior line of communication with the South less accessible to the enemy than any that Richmond possessed; but no such connection was made, nor does it profit now to inquire whether it could have been | ral Lee's command. If I have succeeded in impressing you

with a sense of the importance of Northern great task which devolved upon that army those who undertook to detend it. Early in the second year of the war the

enemy the quiet possession of the James river to within a few miles of Richmond. From that time it was always possible for fences of Washington south of the Potothe Federal Government to transport troops from the North within less than a day's march from the city without the fear or even the possibility of interruption by us. It is unnecessary to refer to the additional facilities afforded by the York river to the enemy to approach Richmond.

The city of Richmond, upon the safety of which depended the ability of the Confederacy to maintain an efficient army in Northern Virginia, was in fact almost as accessible from the north by water as the city of Alexandria. Its distance from the base of the Federal army that could be brought to tacking the city, situated as it was, the powoperate efficiently with its land forces, so that the defenders of Richmond had to resist the James river. the combined efforts of the Federal army illustrates clearly the disadvantages which induce the enemy to withdraw troops from

Courthouse, abandoning the communication the northern States; and this he could not doesn't state, secretary, L. with Washington by the Orange and Alex. do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, abandoning the communication the northern States; and this he could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Committee, General Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should keep his S. Edwards; Executive Courthouse, and the could not do effectually unless he should not do effectually unless he should not do effectually not do effectually not do effectually not do effectually not do effectuall with Washington by the Orange and Alexandria road. But he had no need to care for his old communication, for his first halt in the Wilderness, and his next at Spotsylton, by a road directly in the rear of and nock below Fredericksburg gave him new water communication with his base, using

Grant's march was thus through Virginia it that General Lee would not have crossed der prevailed, and the whole affair was a

the interior of a country, the army of Gene- have availed itself of the opportunity to rela- answer the charge. rai Lee could only oppose direct resistance force its armies in the South and West rather

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dan to the James with thousands of dead and wounded. approached by water, and white it had none require his whole force in Virginia. In fact, of the advantages of an interior city even as I may mention that while our army lay on against an advance of the enemy by land, the Rapidan, in the winter of 1863 and 1864, the difficulty of defending it in case a Fede- it was at one time in contemplation to send whom its brave and patriotic population sent rived from its ability to maintain a strong ral army too strong to be dislodged should General Lee himself to take command of the succeed in establishing itself near the city was insuperable. Such a state of affairs re-

sistance by a weak to a strong force.

It would impose upon the weaker army the protection of long lines of railroad, population could be supplied, while the stronger army would be perfectly safe in its numbers, and yet so strong was General for the purpose of attack.

to those who took part in the defence of his strength still further to aim one last blow Richmond the manifold and fatal disadvan- at the Federal capital in the hope that he tages they struggled so bravely to overcome. might thus cause General Grant to send part I have said enough to show the difficutties of his army to its defence. that beset that defence, and yet all these difficulties were added to the duties, cares, and labors of the Army of Northern Vir-

I have only time to refer to one or two illustrations of the disadvantages which the the latter would be induced to detach a part defence of Richmond, in order to maintain of his force; and in that event relaforcements itself in Northern Virginia, imposed upon could be sent to General Early, until at last the army-disadvantages proceeding altogether from the exposed situation of the transferred from Richmond to the northern city and the absolute naval supremacy of the trontier, and one more expensive campaign

operations of the army.

detachment from the army at Fredericks- ginia had to struggle, and I think if I have burg of the greater part of Longstreet's made myself understood that you will be corps, and the apprehension of danger to able to form a better idea of the extent and purpose of taking part in the battle of strength with that of the enemy, or the most exposed the army of General Lee to the tained or inflicted. greatest peril, and perhaps stripped the victory of Chancellorsville of the truits it might | constantly resting upon one arm, with the have borne.

sence of a Federal fleet in the James and the movement of a Federal army from Bermuda Hundreds detained from us one of the strongest divisions battles and our marches. They give unity of Longstreet's corps while we were and consistency to a narrative that is com-

The same necessity prevented us from calling to our assistance the other troops, unthe James, with whose aid we might once more have rolled the tide of war back to our northern border and made the result of battles and campaigns. Such names as Cold the enemy's campaign of 1864 like that of Harbor, Manassas, Fredericksburg, Chancel-1862 and of 1863. But the most marked influence which the situation of Richmond and the necessity of

providing for its defence exerted upon the

connection with the expeditions of the army beyond the Potomac. This I shall endeavor briefly to explain. would have in besieging Richmond were so call the scenes after the battle, when defenders were absent. His meaning was that the safety of Richmond depended upon

our ability to employ the enemy at a distance and prevent his near approach to the Such was the policy adopted by him, and northward in 1862 to the time when, worn war, it was forced to retire within the enand ever-increasing multitudes of its adver-

But it was only by acting upon the appre hensions of the enemy that such a result could be attained with the force under Gene-

Accordingly, when by the second battle of Pope and McClellan, with all the relaforce- with veiled faces and unsandelled feet. Virginia to the prosperous maintenance of ments that had been added to them, back the war on the part of the Confederacy you upon the defences of Washington, it became of a successful war. It was not ours, cannot fail to perceive that in addition to the necessary for General Lee to decide how he coming back to our homes, to receive from could prevent them from sending an those for whem our arms had won liberty in the immediate field of its operations it expedition by water against Richmond, and and safety the hymn of welcome; thus necessitating the withdrawal of the had also to assume all the difficulties which thus necessitating the withdrawal of the the situation of Richmond imposed upon army from Northern Virginia to defend the Returns home late life when he becomes city. To do this would be practically to A fellow-man among me cellow-men. give up the advantages we had gained in Confederacy was compelled to yield to the the campaign from Richmond to Manassas. It was out of the question to attempt

to besiege the Federal army in the demac even had General Lee been provided from its birth, through its life of arduous with the means to do so; nor, could those toil and danger, to the hour when its unworks have been taken, would any advant- stained sword fell from its exhausted handage have resulted at all commensurate with I feel that it is worthy to have applied to it the effort, as the army would still have been poet to the fallen oakcrossed by a single bridge, more than a mile long, and commanded by the enemy's gun-

Nor was it possible for the army to re main near its late battle-fields, as the country around was entirely stripped of supplies, and there was no railroad to Richmond exoperate against it gave it no advantage if cept from the Rapidan. To fall back that army could almost reach its gates by a far enough southward to open railroad safe and rapid water transportation. In at- communication with Richmond, besides sacrificing to a great extent the moral effect of newal of the attempt on the city by way of ened to with profound attention through-Under these circumstances there was but and was greeted with deafening applause

one course left for him to pursue if he would and an old "Revel yell" when he took his save Richmon'l from the peril which he seat. tempt to approach the city by land. The army, and that occupation must be such the names of new officers. incur ewing to the peculiar situation of the tain additional refaiorcements for himself.

> army near Washington, and where it could ral B. T. Johnson, Colonel Thomas H. Carbe supported. It was for these reasons, as we learn from tin, Private Carlton McCartby. the report of General Lee's first invasion of Maryland, that he crossed the Potomac; and quet hall at the Exchange Hotel.

for like reasons, as it would be easy to show, he invaded Maryland and Pennsylvania in It is not my intention to trace the campaigns of the army beyond the Potostood as the events of those campaigns

ton by the York river and the Chesapeake in undertaking those expeditions, and that Payne, General J. A. Early, General Fitz ton by the fork river and the Chesapeake in undertaking those expeditions, and that bay. And when his last march brought him the battles of Sharpsburg and Gettysburg Lee, General W. H. F. Lee, General R. to the James, his communication with Washwere in fact but a part of the plan by which were in fact but a part of the plan by which Lindsay Walker, General J. A. Walker, Dr. ington and all the northern ports became General Lee sought to defend Richmond, Cullen, Dr. Carrington, Judge Farrar, Gensafe and perfect, without requiring the detachment of a single man from his army to in Northern Virginia and in proximity to Ransom, General F. H. Smith, Colonel C. S.

not impossible that had the or jective point such a movement usually affords those who But it is more probable that in such an The accused was examined and sent on to such a movement usually anords those who But it is more producted that in such an The accused was examined and sent of the resist an invading army seeking to penetrate event the Confederate Government would be grand jury of the Hustings Court to

inforce General Bragg at a time when it ing the army at a distance was flustrated to. the last.

THE DISPATCH

TERMS OF ADVERTISING: CASH-INTARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

The close of three years of bloody war ing the enemy from pressing the siege of But it is unnecessary for me to point out Richmond that he did not hesitate to reduce Such was the o'ject of General Early's ex-

He, General Johnston, says on page 145 of ance. his Narrative: "The author of Alfriend's $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} E \times \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} E \times \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{F$

As to the 22,000 from South Carolina and

around Richmond began.

in the battles around Richmond. He then says that he was joined on the

command who took part in the battles around Richmond. At page 234, volume I., of the official re-

neers and the ambulance corps." The Narrative puts the force under

I have not been able to find General Drayton's report of the part his command took in the engagements around

If Ripley and Lawton brought but 5,866

occasion, I do not be- from South Carolina and Georgia. That is, those two brigades, Drayton's and

War because, and yet who on either side, even the reports of captains of companies. A Confederate brigade, seven thousand strong, would probably have taken some part battles in which the armies of the North like and south met each other?

the senate after the war a resolution which be had previously brought forward, the love of truth that will turn out to be a very small tween the James river and the Potomac has suits anticipated by General Lee.

In subsequent operations of the River and the South and West radict and the South and the So

That it had the inclination to pursue this policy is demonstrated by the detachment of two divisions of Longstreet's corps to re-But while Richmond could thus be easily was thought that General Lee would not army in Georgia. The confidence of General Lee in the belief that Richmond could versed all the conditions of a successful re- not be successfully defended except by keep-

pedition to Maryland. It was not supposed that General Early's small force would induce the withdrawal of General Grant's army, but it was hoped that the scene of hostingles might once more be of the enemy be trustrated. But the vast It is plain that the necessity of looking to superiority of the enemy in numbers enabled. the defence of the city against the great | nim to provide for the defence of Washingperil to which it was constantly exposed ton without seriously diminishing the army could not fail to influence and control the of General Grant, and the siege of Richmond remained unbroken.

You will remember how, in the winter of I have thus imperfectly endeavored to pre-1862-'63, the fear of an advance of the enemy sent to you in a general way the difficulties on the south side of the James caused the under which the Army of Northern Vir-Richmond from that direction was so great magnitude of its services than could be dethat it was not considered expedient to re- rived from a description of its various batturn these troops to the army even for the ties, the most accurate comparison of its Chancellorsville. The absence of these troops careful enumeration of the losses it sus-

With the burden of Richmond's weakness other it dealt those ponderous blows under Again, you will remember that the pre- which the gigantic power of the Federal Government shook to its foundation. My comrades, these are reflections which add new interest to the recollection of our

grappling with our gigantic enemy in the monly regarded as consisting of detached Wilderness and at Spotsylvania Courthouse. and independent events. But time will not permit me to pursue the subject further now, nor do I believe that der General Beauregard, on the south side of when we meet, as on this occasion, to revive the recollections and associations of our army life, you give your first thoughts to

lossyille, and imperishable Petersburg, recall proud memories, I know. But you, my comrades, on such an occasion as this, when you hear their names, conduct of the war in Virginia was in its think first of the dear friends who lay by your side in the bivouse of the night, and were struck dead by your side in the battle of the morrow. You cease to think of the

> And the sentinel stars set their watch in the sky, And thousands had sunk to the ground everpow-

The weary to sleep, and the wounded to die." rade whose life-blood was fast ebbing and received from lips soon to be sealed in death which secured the comparative safety of the last few words to mother, wife, child, the South sufficient to furnish transports- Richmond from the time the army moved Iriend. You recall a son kneeling over the prostrate body of his father, or father leanout with more than two years of exhausting ing on his musket and gazing with mingled agony and pride upon a brave young face, Lynchburg might have been connected trenchments of Richmond before the great white in death, his hope, his treasure, dead; yes, but deed on the neld of duty and of

honor-dead in honor's foremost ranks. These are the memories which the surv!vors of the army cherish nearest to their hearts, and with which they go back to their battle-fields not as the scenes of triumph or disaster, but as sacred spots, where brave Manassas he had drived the united forces of comrades fell-spots on which they tread

It was not our fortune to reap the fruits

But as I cast my eyes over the whole his-

the sacrifice of life that would have attended those noble words addressed by the English separated from Washington by a river, Thou Tho unmoved hast heard the whirlwind chide

white

white

full many a winter round thy craggy nest,

And has some earth-born giant hast outstretched.

An hu dred arms, and heaven's own boits defied,

Now lest along the native mountain side.

Uptorn: mu think not that I come to shed.

The idle drop of pity o'er thy head,

Or basely to insuit the blasted pride.

No. It sid, is thine, though fallen, imperial oak,

To teach this lesson to the good and brave:

That 'ils I'er better, overthrown and broke,

In treadom's cause to sink into the grave

Than 1. submission to a tyrant's yoke,

Like the vill-reed, to bow and be a slave."

The address of Colonel Marsball was list-

On motion of General Bradley T. John-

the army defending Richmond was forced to other parts of the Confederacy, and thus ob- Vice Presiden's, General W. H. F. Lee, Ge-These results, ho wever, required that he General H. Heth, Captain D. B. McCorkle. should continue to threaten Washington and Tressurer, Major Robert Stiles; Secretary,

> ter, Major T. A. Brander, Major W. K. Mar-The meeting then adjourned to the ban-

The Banquet About one hundred and twenty-five soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia sat mac, interesting and imperfectly under- have been pleasant to have seen an old Confederate regiment su. round. After full jusare, but I have accomplished my present tice had been done to the viands a number landing. When his third stage brought him purpose if I have succeeded in explaining that of regular toasts were read, and eloquent reto the Pamunkey, a new and perfectly safe the situation of Richmond was intimately sponses were made by Governor Kemper, connected with the designs of General Lee General W. B. Talia'erro, General W. H. It will thus be seen that although General It would perhaps be going too far to say Good humor, good fellowship, and good or-

ROBBERY IN ROCKETTS.-A negro named The Federal army was not troubled with of Federal operations in Virginta been some Wash. Edwards was before Police-Justic for it abandoned one only to find another and a safer at the end of every march.

Deprived thus of the opportunities that

Deprived thus of the opportunities that

[FOR OTHER LOCAL SEE FOURTH PAGE.]